(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In view of the state of emergency in the country, elections to Municipal Councils and the Council of the Corporation of Madras have been postponed under the provisions of the Madras Local Authorities (Extension of Term of Office of Members) Act, 1962.

திரு. ஆர். வெங்கட்டாசலம்: தலைவர் அவர்களே, பாராளுமன்றத்திலும் சட்டமன்றத்திலும் இடைத்தேர்தல் நடத்தலாம் என்று எலெக்ஷன் கமிஷனர் தெரிவித்திருக்கும்போது, நகராட்சி மன்றத் தேர்தல்களை நடத்துவதில் என்ன சிரமம் இருக்குமென்று சர்க்கார் கருதுகிறார்கள்?

கனம் திரு. எஸ். எம். ஏ. மஜீத்: இதுவரையிலும் அதைப்பற்றி யோசிக்கவில்லை.

திரு. எ. கே. தங்கவேல் முதலியார்: காஞ்சீபுரம் முனிசிபாலிடியில் ஒரு மெம்பர் செத்துப்போய் மூன்று வருஷங்களாகின்றது. அந்த இடம் காலியாக இருப்பது தெரியுமா?

கனம் திரு. எஸ். எம். ஏ. மஜீத்: கனம் அங்கத்தினர் தனியாகக் கேள்வி போடவேண்டும்.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

[*Note*.—**An asterisk (*) at the Commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have received a message from the Governor of Madras, recommending to the Legislative Council the consideration of the Madras Home Guard Bill, 1963.

(2) MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have also received a message from the Hon. Speaker, Legislative Assembly, transmitting a copy of the Madras Home Guard Bill, 1963 (L.A. Bill No. 6 of 1963), as passed by the Assembly for the concurrence of the Council.

III.—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF CEMENT AVAILABLE TO CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING PROJECTS.

DR. T. V. SIVANANDAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, under rule 42 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, I would like to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Works to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the acute shortage of cement available to co-operative housing projects and the immediate necessity to

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increase the cement quota allotted to such co-operative housing schemes and the necessity to examine the relief that can be given for the members whose houses are half-built and the construction is being delayed for want of cement.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in view of the acute short supply position of cement in the State, due to the limited allotment made by the Government of India, this Government appointed a Committee with the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, as Chairman, to go into all aspects relating to cement supply position and rationalizing the distribution of cement so as to ensure that, with the limited quantities of cement available, the maximum number of works are taken on hand and completed. After examining the report submitted by the Chairman of the Committee, the Government have ordered, among other things, as follows in October 1962 :— 3-10 p.m.

(i) Thirty per cent of quantity of cement allotted to this Government under State quota will be reserved entirely for the public (including wagon load consumers).

(ii) The remaining 70 per cent will be distributed to the various Government and quasi-Government institutions. Out of this, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies will get 1·2 per cent for building works of co-operative societies.

(iii) The Chief Engineers have also been instructed to revise their models and designs so that cement will be consumed to the barest minimum and that other materials could be used instead of cement.

For the period January to March 1963, the Government of India have allotted a quota of 95,850 tonnes against the usual quota of 127,800 tonnes per quarter. The quantity of cement that has been allotted to the Co-operative department during January–March 1963 is 1,150 tonnes. Releases have also been made to individual co-operative societies direct to the extent of 1,762 tonnes during the first nine months of 1962. Apart from this, applications received from individual members of co-operative societies for construction of houses on their own account are registered and releases are made according to the order of priority.

In view of the cut imposed by the Government of India, there is all round scarcity for cement in the State. As the Government have also slowed down their building programmes, the question of enhancing the quota for the general public is under active consideration of the Government. The State Housing Board has also switched over to the use of lime mortar so as to reduce the use of cement for their building works.

Inasmuch as there is scarcity of cement to meet the ever increasing demand, it is hoped that the general public will switch over to the use of lime mortar in the place of cement for building works especially when the commodity is in great demand for defence purposes which have to be met in full on top priority.